

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NAMING THE UVALDE, TX POST
OFFICE IN HONOR OF DOLPH
BRISCOE

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of this legislation, which names the Uvalde Post Office in my district after an esteemed Texan, Dolph Briscoe.

Dolph Briscoe is a true Texan who graduated from the University of Texas at Austin, served in the State Legislature and was eventually elected governor of Texas.

Briscoe's roots in Texas stretch back to the days of the Alamo.

He is a direct descendant of Andrew Briscoe, an original signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence.

Dolph Briscoe is also a dedicated American who served this country as an army officer during World War II.

Born in Uvalde to a self-made cattle rancher, Dolph Briscoe has strong roots in Texas and in the agricultural community.

He was long a champion of cattle ranchers and the agricultural community as a whole.

Serving as the youngest ever president of the Texas and Southwest Cattle Raisers Association, Briscoe spearheaded the effort to eradicate the screw worm from cattle in the southwest, a great achievement for the livestock industry.

Once elected to the Texas State Legislature, Briscoe also led the initiative to create the farm-to-market road system.

The road system was a great improvement to the rural infrastructure of Texas, finally allowing farmers direct access to the cities and it is still in use today.

After serving in the legislature, Briscoe was elected governor of Texas.

As a pro-business Democrat, he was the only modern governor of Texas to enact a balanced budget without raising or creating new taxes.

The Briscoe family remains active in Texas, especially in Uvalde where Dolph Briscoe continues to work as a cattle rancher and also serves the community as the Senior Chairman of the First State Bank of Uvalde.

Dolph Briscoe has been committed to the city of Uvalde for decades and deserves to be honored in this way.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE FIREFIGHTERS
OF CONTRA COSTA AND SOLANO
COUNTIES WHO GAVE THEIR
LIVES IN SERVICE TO THEIR
COMMUNITIES

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today along with my colleagues Rep. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER and Rep. JERRY MCNERNEY to recognize three individuals in our districts who have given real meaning to the term "hero." Deputy Fire Marshall Ron Wiley of Richmond Fire Department, Captain Matt Burton and Fire Engineer Scott Desmond both of Contra Costa Consolidated Fire Department each lost their life in the line of duty this past month. The loss has been enormous for the families they leave behind and for their colleagues who have served our communities alongside them.

We ask a tremendous amount from our first responders every single day. They spend their time and talents educating us on how to stay safe and well and then when all the safeguards fail, we ask them to set aside their own safety for us. Ron Wiley, Matt Burton, and Scott Desmond knew well the risks they took but they each also held a deep commitment to service in our communities.

It has been said of each of these men that the love of their work as firefighters was second only to their love of family and our thoughts and prayers are with those families now. We in the communities they served so selflessly now stand to support the loved ones they have left behind.

Richmond Deputy Fire Marshall Ron Wiley, Contra Costa Consolidated Fire Captain Matt Burton and Contra Costa Consolidated Fire Engineer Scott Desmond were mentors and role models and will be forever missed. Even though we don't often express it, we as a community value our fire fighters highly and are grateful for the service and sacrifice of these brave men.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER FOR
THE VIRGIN ISLANDS ACT

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, H.R. 2107 fulfills my commitment to my constituents to continue the effort to create a Chief Financial Officer for the Territory. This is the third time that this legislation has been on the floor of the House. However, the other body failed to act on it in the previous two Congresses.

When I first introduced the idea of a CFO for the Virgin Islands in 2005, I did so in re-

sponse to the concerns, complaints and distrust of government voiced by my constituents and as a measure to prevent the territory, which was experiencing a serious financial crisis, from falling into the abyss of fiscal insolvency. I believed then, as I do now, that having such an office in our government, free of political pressures and with the statutory responsibility and authority to certify revenue projections and prevent deficit spending, could assist our government to establish sound financial practices which would put the Islands on the path to improved financial management going forward. Because of our long history of poor financial management and practices, an office such as this would also help to immediately restore the confidence of the Federal Government and others in our ability to be fiscally transparent and accountable.

As I have said on this floor and in many other settings, in drafting H.R. 2107, I looked at the example and record of what having such a position has meant to the financial management and fiscal health of the District of Columbia.

After having decades of fiscal mismanagement and protracted deficits, the District today enjoys annual balanced budgets and surpluses under the stewardship of a Chief Financial Officer; an office that was voluntarily retained by the city after the mandated office went away with the end of their Financial Control Board. Both the general public and elected leadership of the District recognize the benefits of having an impartial arbiter, free from the pressures of politics, managing their finances—something I strongly believe my community can benefit from as well.

When I first introduced this bill the territory's long-term debt totaled \$1 billion. Fiscal crises have been narrowly averted through repeated borrowing. Such borrowing and debt creation has led to the \$3 billion debt reported by Governor De Jongh in April of this year—a practice he has already stated he will not continue.

There are those, Madam Speaker, who will ask why I am doing this at this time, particularly because the islands just seven months ago, inaugurated a new governor whose background is in financial management and who has been a good friend and political ally. I want to be perfectly clear that I have every confidence in Governor John de Jongh and his administration and believe that they will do a first rate job of managing the territory's finances. He has already begun to do so.

I am re-introducing this bill because my constituents continue to see it as a necessary measure, and because, like the CFO in Washington, DC, it can assist our governor in his stated goal of paying our obligations and bringing the territory's finances into balance. It would also be a way to provide apolitical and indisputable information on the financial state of our government, as well as bridge any divisions between the administration and the legislature in the interests of expediting a positive and sustainable agenda for the people of the Virgin Islands.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.